



# ***Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks***

## **Blackfoot River Closure Rule: Adopted May 22, 2014**

### **I. PURPOSE**

(1) The purpose of the following rule is to address on-going public safety concerns on the lower Blackfoot River associated with anticipated changes in river bed elevation and exposure of timber and other mill related debris and the Interstate-90 Bridge Piers.

(2) Closure of portions of the lower Blackfoot River is necessary to increase public awareness and safety associated with changing river and debris conditions and the Interstate-90 bridge piers, which could endanger river floaters particularly during high water periods.

### **III. BLACKFOOT RIVER CLOSURE**

(1) The Blackfoot River is closed to all floaters (including boats, rafts, canoes, kayaks, inner tubes, etc.) and swimming from the Weigh Station FAS to the downstream side of the Interstate-90 bridges from May 1 through June 30. Walk-in bank access will be allowed.

(2) The commission authorizes the department, with the approval of the commissioner in whose district the closure is located, to temporarily close the Blackfoot River to all floaters (including boats, rafts, canoes, kayaks, inner tubes, etc.) and swimming from the Weigh Station FAS to the downstream side of the Interstate-90 bridges during the time period from July 1 through April 30 for the purpose of addressing significant public safety concerns. Walk-in bank access will be allowed.

(3) The commission authorizes the department, with the approval of the commissioner in whose district the closure is located, to temporarily open the Blackfoot River to all floaters (including boats, rafts, canoes, kayaks, inner tubes, etc.) and swimming from the Weigh Station FAS to the downstream side of the Interstate-90 bridges prior to June 30 if the department determines that annual high river flows associated with spring run-off have decreased sufficiently and are unlikely to increase again before May 1 of the following year.

### **IV. EXCEPTIONS TO RIVER CLOSURES**

(1) The general exceptions and applications identified in 12.11.505, ARM, apply to these closure rules.

### **V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION OF THESE RULES**

(1) This rule is effective upon final approval of the commission.

(2) This rule expires two years after final approval of the commission.

(3) This rule may be amended or repealed based on a suitable risk management plan. Prior to expiration, the commission may extend the effective date of these rules for no more than two years.